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Mapping Scholarly Communication on the Role of Libraries in Crisis Management and Disaster Response: A Bibliometrics Analysis

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Abstract

Disaster is a phenomenon or an unexpected happening, which can be both natural and man-made, that particularly disturbs & to some extent causes harm to humans, organizational infrastructure, and national heritage. In this context, the public library plays a crucial role in the conservation and preservation of cultural heritage, rare and other valuable resources, to not only protect it for the present generation but also to portray the rich culture of the nation to the upcoming generation. It becomes an utmost need of the hour, libraries emerge to safeguard their resources, capturing and digitizing cultural manuscripts of national importance, catering their services to potential communities, facilitating communication, and providing hassle-free reading rooms to their users. Important guidelines given by ALA and IFLA focus on retro-conversion of library resources, an effective framework for disaster management plans, and various information services for users in times of emergency. Several libraries around the world started taking initiatives for disaster management and recovery preparedness in times of need. The National Library of Australia has been working on digital preservation for protecting cultural heritage manuscripts, while Kerala state central library, after the severe destruction caused by the Kerala flood 2018, started taking efforts for the restoration of documents to promote the dissemination of knowledge to their communities using those resources. This study presents a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of global scholarly output on the role of libraries in crisis management and disaster response. Data is extracted from the rich Scopus database by using an advanced search strategy. The extracted data were analysed, synthesized, and represented in the form of tables, figures, and charts with the help of bibliometrics performance indicators and science mapping tools like VOSviewer, Biblishiny, and the Microsoft Office package. The findings of the study will examine publication trends, prominent authors, institutions, countries, core sources, thematic evolution, and collaboration networks.

Keywords: *Disaster management, Crisis response, Library resilience, Emergency information services, Bibliometrics, Scientometrics*

Introduction

Crisis is defined as ‘any incident which threatens human safety and/or damages, or threatens to damage, a library’s buildings, collections (or item(s) therein), equipment and systems’ (Akhshik & Beglou, 2023; Eden & Matthews, 1996). In the time of disaster, whether it is natural or man-made, a library, being a non-profit organization, holding a vast & rare collection, should have a proper disaster preparedness plan or strategy to survive such damage. Disaster can be of any type, ranging from natural to social,

technological, and financial. Research around the world on disaster management & preparedness, which holds an important value to learn from various experiences, and to advance their strategies to design a proper roadmap to protect its core & precious collection from being mutilated. Libraries should work closely with local organizations to prepare a plan regarding disaster response in the time of crisis to serve and protect their fundamental collection for future generations to come. In addition to it, at ground level, it helps society to learn about how to deal with these indifferent situations. Various studies around the global examined that library professionals' attitudes, unskilled and limited library staff, absolute technology, insufficient space and working area, lack of funding, etc., lead to the absence of a disaster management plan in such a valuable organization. Major research around the world explored that various perception related to disaster preparedness plans by libraries differs across several community members, as they don't recognize libraries as a valuable organization holding such a precious manuscript, and conserving & preserving resources for national importance (Young, 2018). It is a need of the hour to recognize libraries for the value they hold, the services they provide, and to cater to the needs of their users. So, this self-serving organization must have a future-oriented disaster recovery plan to safeguard its resources from any kind of disaster and serve & guide its community members in times of need.

Literature Review

Khademizadeh et al. (2023) explored that the dust crisis is one of the major problems faced by some parts of Iran due to climate change. The study is based on a qualitative research design conducted using semi-structured interviews with a total of 11 employees and managers of public libraries of Ilan, Khuzestan, Kermanshah, and Kurdistan. Further, the study identified the three-stage disaster recovery measures starting with the pre-crisis stage, where library work is informative, educational, cultural, and executive level; during the crisis level, they adopt executive and informative roles, while documentation and executive roles are adopted during the post-crisis stage. The study conducted by Ismail (2023) is based on qualitative case studies and thematic analysis, exploring how academic libraries during the COVID-19 pandemic in Malaysia look after the damage caused. The research examined how libraries have evolved their roles by enhancing their services to satisfy the needs of users during times of disruption. The findings also suggest that major libraries do not have a proper proposed formal plan for Disaster Management, but they have several strategies to deal with it. Several experiences from learned libraries could help various other developing libraries and policymakers to construct their own disaster management plan to survive such unseen disasters.

Ntullo (2026) identifies four important steps, such as preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery, to prepare themselves for any unwanted disaster, whether natural or man-made. The study found that identification of various possible key factors & risk levels and managing them is the initial step. Taking into account the ever-going Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) cycle will minimize the risk of disaster. Several aspects, like severity and frequency of disaster, library collection, users & staff, location of library building, etc., should be considered for risk analysis.

Another study conducted by Ashiq et al. (2022) investigated how academic libraries functioned during the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 to 2021. The study was based on a systematic review, using PRISMA Guidelines, through which 23 studies were taken from Scopus, Web of Science, LISA, and LISTA databases. The study found that the role of libraries, their management, and services have transformed a lot during the time of the pandemic. Many difficulties were faced by libraries during COVID-19, but the adoption of modern digital services and various web communication tools overshadowed those challenges. The findings revealed that libraries around the globe should adopt several initiatives like remote access, advanced digital infrastructure, communication through social media, and enhance their library webpages to deliver more apt & current information related to their users' needs. A proper Disaster Management Plan (DMP) should be developed at the institutional level to overcome various severe future crises.

The innovative research study by Yucesoy et al. (2025) explored the use of drones in the time of disaster response. The study examined the three main uses of drones, which are the collection of information, facilitating deliveries, and maintaining a communication channel in times of crisis. Various operational dysfunctions and gaps were also identified during the research. Such advanced technologies could also be implemented in the libraries to disseminate essential information to their users in a period of disaster.

Dada et al. (2025) investigated the importance, challenges, and various measures to safeguard library collection & rich national heritage. The study emphasized the support libraries could take from the British Library and the Nigerian Environmental Management Agency in times of emergency, preparing professionals for the time of crisis through training and dissemination of information. Overall, the research paper placed importance on policy-making, library collaboration, effective training, and advancement in technological use, which could eliminate the risk of disaster in libraries.

Duh et al. (2022) explored the disaster response plan of academic and special libraries based in Croatia. Several libraries were under or a part of a bigger institution, which restricts their power of decision-making in the time of disaster. These libraries comprise the vast and rare material to be secured during the period of crisis. The study makes use of the survey method to collect data from several libraries, particularly focusing on the training of

staff, preparedness plans formulated by libraries, assessing risk during the time of disaster, etc. The finding explored that incompetence in equipment used, resources managed, and disaster response potential among libraries were the main reasons for failure.

Objectives of the Study

The present study was conducted to fulfil the following formulated objectives:

a) To identify the annual scientific production on the role of public libraries in crisis & disaster management.
b) To know the author's productivity and collaboration patterns of the research area.
c) To find out the prominent institutions, source titles, and leading publishers of the domain.
d) To portray funding agencies that contribute most significantly to the research domain.

Research Methodology

The present study sought to portray the research outputs of Indian Authors on the Role of Libraries in Crisis Management and disaster response. A quantitative bibliometric research design was formulated, and the relevant data for the study were extracted from the on 11th March 2026, via. Scopus database by using advanced search strategies, after cleaning and eliminating the irrelevant entries. A total of 918 data points were downloaded in CSV format to run the file in RStudio packages and VOSviewer. The process of analyzing the bibliographic dataset and writing the research paper took place via. Microsoft Excel & Word to interpret the findings of the study in the form of tables and figures.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

General Information about the Data

The general information of the extracted dataset is represented in Table 1, which highlights that scholarly communication happens between 2016 and 2025 in India. A total of 918 documents were published in 630 different sources, indicating a decent level of engagement among scholars in this domain, and the number grew at a rate of 14.19% annually. A total of 4,265 authors has contributed their knowledge, in which a strong collaboration pattern is noted with 5.55 co-authors per published document, and authors prefer to publish their manuscripts in the form of journal articles, which cover almost 52.17% of total documents published during the time span, followed by conference papers with 24.72% and reviews with 15.03%, respectively.

Table 1: General Information About Data

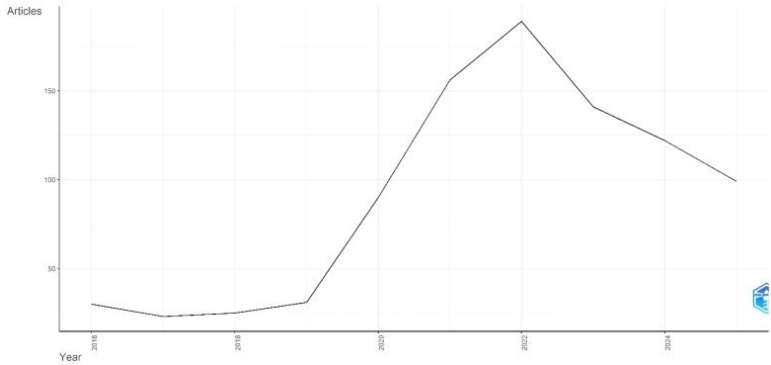
Main Information about Data	
Timespan	2016:2025
Sources (Journals, Books, etc)	630
Documents	918
Annual Growth Rate %	14.19
Document Average Age	4.16
Average citations per doc	18.05
References	101958
Document Contents	
Keywords Plus (ID)	8119
Author's Keywords (DE)	3171
Authors	
Authors	4265
Authors of single-authored docs	57
Authors Collaboration	
Single-authored docs	48
Co-Authors per Doc	5.55
International co-authorships %	25.17
Document Types	
Article	479
Book	11
Book chapter	53
Conference paper	227
Data paper	1
Letter	4
Note	3
Review	138
Short survey	2

Annual Growth Trend Line

Fig. 1 shows the annual production of publications on the role of libraries in managing disasters and crises from 2016 to 2025. The graph highlights a remarkable indication that the publication count from the year 2016 to 2019 was very low, and on average, 27.25 documents per year only. Whereas, a stage comes where a hike in publication starts from the year 2020 onwards, reaching its peak with the publication of 189 documents in 2022, which happens due to the global attention toward information services during the COVID-19 pandemic, and libraries perform a crucial role in disseminating information and supporting the information needs of the user community. After 2022, the declining line of production of publications was noted, but it

still remains higher than the initial year, highlighting the sustained scholarly importance of the domain.

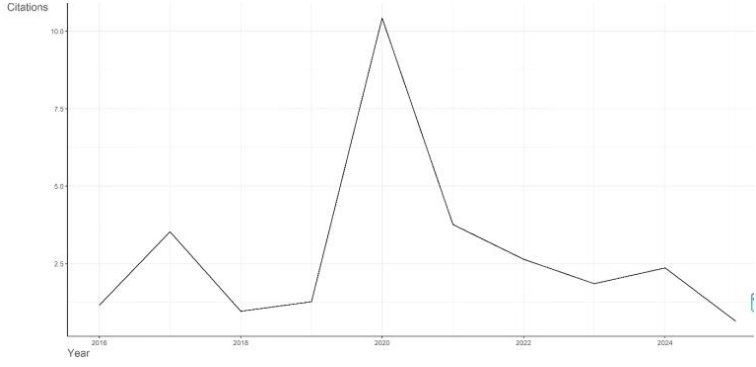
Fig. 1: Annual Growth Trend Line



Average Citation Pattern Per Year

Fig. 2 shows the position of citations per year, highlighting low citation count in the early stage of publication from 2016 to 2019, as only 109 documents were published during the span. But after 2020, a rise in the citation count was noted, and it reached its peak in 2020, indicating publications from that period were relatively more recognized globally. After 2020, the citation count increased at a diminishing rate, which may have happened due to the shorter time period available to get new citations of published literature.

Fig. 2: Average Citation Per Year



Word Cloud Related to Trendy Topics

The word cloud of trendy topics is highlighted in Fig. 3, illustrating the most frequently occurring words during the span 2016 to 2025, the dominance of

key terms such as “human”, “COVID-19”, “pandemic”, and “Coronavirus disease 2019.” Indicating a significant majority of documents were created and closely associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The presence of other words in the cloud, such as systematic review, unclarified drug, controlled study, and health science, suggested integration of the interdisciplinary domain of knowledge. The presence of remarked keywords in the cloud shows how global crises shaped scholarly communication and generates opportunities to disseminate individual knowledge to unexplored areas of research.

Fig. 3: Word Cloud of Trendy Topics

Prominent Sources Title Related to the Study

Most prominent source titles of the Domain were highlighted in Table 2, on the role of libraries in crisis and disaster management, indicating 4.85% of documents published in *Library Philosophy and Practice*, and ranked 1 in the top ten list of prominent source titles, indicating its significant presence in disseminating research in the domain. Followed by *Journal of Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics,* secured rank 2 in the list with contributing 3.09%, and *Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems,* secured rank 3 with 2.09% documents in the research area. Whereas Table 3 also mapped a list of other sources that exist in the top 10 but published in a few publications, like *Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems* with 2.09%, *Journal of Indian Library Association* with 1.10%*, and Lecture Notes in Electrical Engineering* with 0.99%, representing research in this field is published across interdisciplinary platforms.

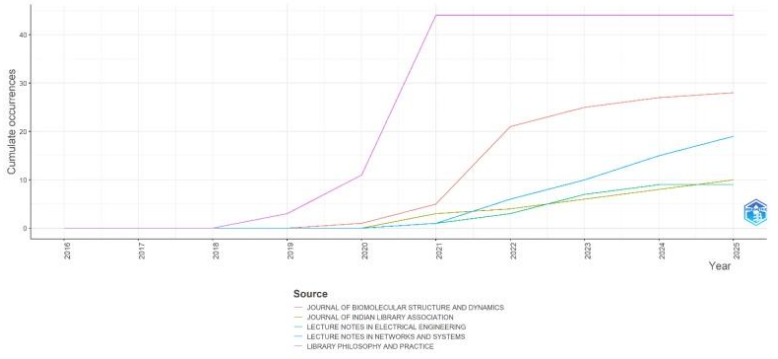
Table 2: Most Prominent Source Title of the Domain

Rank	Source Title	Total No. of Documents	% Share of Total Documents
1	Library Philosophy and Practice	44	4.85%
2	Journal of Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics	28	3.09%
3	Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems	19	2.09%
4	Journal of Indian Library Association	10	1.10%
5	Lecture Notes in Electrical Engineering	9	0.99%
6	Emerald Emerging Markets Case Studies	8	0.88%
7	Aip Conference Proceedings	7	0.77%
8	Clinical Epidemiology and Global Health	6	0.66%
9	Communications In Computer and Information Science	6	0.66%
10	Computers In Biology and Medicine	6	0.66%

Production of Source Over Time

Fig. 4 indicates the procurement by source over time, highlighting that *Library Philosophy and Practice* are dominating the field of knowledge from 2021, followed by *Journal of Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics and Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems,* which have started to rise during recent years. Overall, the figure shows there has been a rise in contributing multidisciplinary sources of development of the researched area.

Fig. 4: Source Production Over Time



Pattern Related to Authors Productivity and Collaboration

Table 3 illustrates the authorship pattern of the studied area, the dataset indicating that around 93% of documents are published in collaboration with more than at least one author, which shows the strong collaboration trend in the research domain. Table 3 also highlights that there is a strong dominance of publications that have more than four authors, which covers almost 41.61% (382) of the total published documents, followed by two-author papers, which is 20.58% (189) of the total share of documents. In the context of one-authored documents, it represents only 6.20% (57) of research during the time span. Overall, the figure suggests the author of the domain believes that collaboration not only enhances the quality of research but also disseminates the studied findings to the large population to address complex global challenges.

Table 3: Authors Productivity and Collaboration Patterns

No. of Authors	Paper Contributed	Cf	% Contribution
Single Author	57	57	6.20%
Double Authors	189	246	20.58%
Triple Authors	152	398	16.55%
Four Authors	138	536	15.03%
More Than 4 Authors	382	918	41.61%

Most Productive Authors Related to the Study

Table 4 highlights the most productive authors contributing to this research area. Kaur, Harpreet ranks first with 6 publications and 44 total citations. Bhatt, C.M. and Singh, Amit Kumar follow with 5 publications each, with Singh receiving a notably high 292 citations. Kumar, Amit demonstrates the highest impact with 351 total citations and an average of 87.75 citations per article. Other authors such as Ahmad, Shaban and Padmanabham, J. also show meaningful contributions. Overall, the table indicates that while several authors contribute moderately in terms of publication count, some demonstrate strong citation impact within the field.

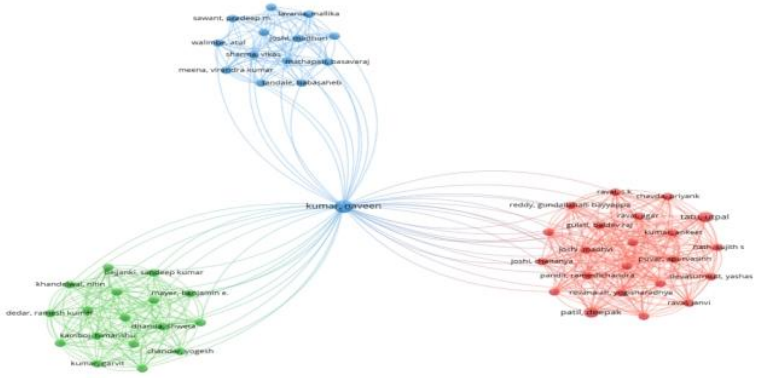
Table 4: Most Prolific Authors of Domain

Rank	Name of Author	Documents Contributed	Total Citation	Avg. Citations per Articles
1	Kaur, Harpreet	6	44	7.33
2	Bhatt, C.M.	5	102	20.4
3	Singh, Amit Kumar	5	292	58.4
4	Ahmad, Shaban	4	172	43
5	Balakrishnan Nair, T.M.	4	13	3.25
6	Kumar, Amit	4	351	87.75
7	Padmanabham, J.	4	34	8.5
8	Alshamrani, Saleh	3	125	41.66
9	Alturki, Norah A.	3	125	41.66
10	Alzamami, Ahmad	3	125	41.66

Collaboration Pattern among Authors

The authors' collaboration network in the domain of libraries and their roles in crisis and disaster management is shown in Table 5, indicating network categories in three major clusters or groups, highlighting the red cluster, which is the largest and indicates a dense collaboration among several authors, suggesting an active and closely connected research group in this domain. The blue cluster represents another group of scholars with moderate collaboration links among themselves. The green cluster is comparatively smaller but still shows cooperative research activity. A central author, Kumar, Naveen, appears as a key connecting node linking multiple clusters, indicating a bridging role in scholarly collaboration. This pattern suggests that while research is conducted in groups, a few authors play an important role in connecting different research communities.

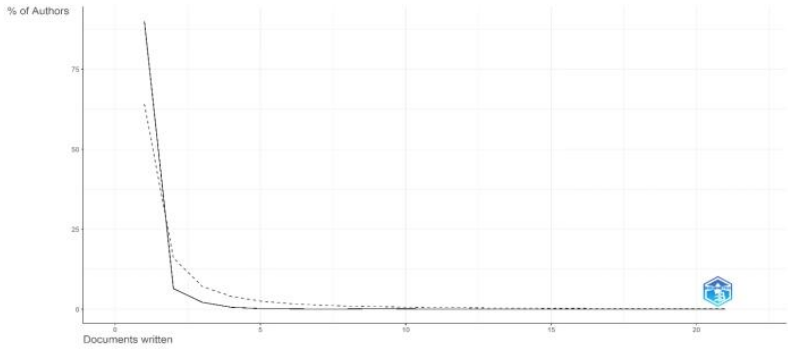
Fig. 5: Authors Collaboration Network



Implementation of Lotka's Law and Its Assessment

Fig. 6 highlights the implementation and assessment of Lotka's Law, which portrays the distribution of authors according to their research productivity. The graph indicates that the maximum number of authors have published only one document, whereas the diminishing number of authors versus the increase in the number of documents published as the number of documents written increases. This inverse relationship indicates that only a small number of publications indicate the inverse relationship of the publication in the field. The dotted and solid lines represent the observed and theoretical distributions, which appear closely aligned, suggesting that the author's productivity pattern in this research area generally follows Lotka's Law. This finding indicates that scholarly output is dominated by many occasional contributors and a few highly productive authors.

Fig. 6: Lotka's Law Implementation and Assessment



Highly Cited Documents Globally

Table 5 represents the most globally cited documents in the study area, highlighting an article published by Rajkumar (2020) in the Asian Journal of Psychiatry, having the maximum number of citations with 2541, indicating the high recognition of the paper globally. However, Aggarwal (2021) and Davis (2017) also have significant scholarly engagement of their studies with 742 and 553 citations till now, respectively. Overall, the table highlights that a low share of influential documents has significantly shaped the research domain.

Table 5: Most Globally Cited Documents

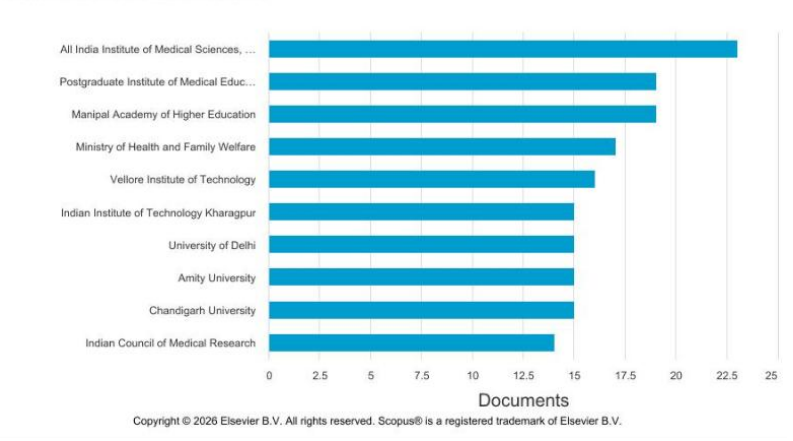
Rank	Paper	Total Citations	TC per Year	Normalized TC
1	Rajkumar RP, 2020, Asian J Psychiatry. DOI: 10.1016/j.ajp.2020.102066	2541	363.00	34.79
2	Aggarwal A, 2021, Int J Inf Manag Data Insights. DOI: 10.1016/j.jjimei.2020.100004	742	123.67	32.90
3	Davis AL, 2017, Crit Care Med. DOI: 10.1097/CCM.0000000000002425	553	55.30	15.66
4	Krishnamoorthy Y, 2020, Psychiatry Res. DOI: 10.1016/j.psychres.2020.113382	426	60.86	5.83
5	Bolan S, 2024, Sci Total Environ. DOI: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.168388	400	133.33	56.48
6	Pisano M, 2020, World J Emerg Surg. DOI: 10.1186/s13017-020-00336-x	353	50.43	4.83
7	Shah B, 2020, Life Sci. DOI: 10.1016/j.lfs.2020.117652	330	47.14	4.52

Rank	Paper	Total Citations	TC per Year	Normalized TC
8	Khan RJ, 2021, J Biomol Struct Dyn. DOI: 10.1080/07391102.2020.1753577	253	42.17	11.22
9	Kumar Y, 2020, J Infect Public Health. DOI: 10.1016/j.jiph.2020.06.016	203	29.00	2.78
10	Misra S, 2021, Neurology. DOI: 10.1212/WNL.0000000000012930	203	33.83	9.00

Most Productive Affiliation

Fig. 7 illustrates the most productive institutional affiliations contributing to the research domain. The data indicate that the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) holds the leading position with the highest number of publications, reflecting its strong research involvement in crisis management and disaster-related studies. Other significant contributors include the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Institutions such as the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur and the University of Delhi also demonstrate notable contributions. The distribution highlights the active role of major academic and medical institutions in advancing research related to crisis management.

Fig. 7: Most Productive Affiliation



Most Contributed Publisher in the Domain

Table 6 states the publisher's contribution towards the research domain, highlighting Lippincott Williams and Wilkins securing rank 1 by publishing 15.46% (142) of the total documents published during the studied period. Followed by Elsevier B.V., Springer Science and Business Media Deutschland

GmbH, Association for Computing Machinery, and Hindawi Limited with 7.73% (71), 5.33% (49), 4.79% (44), and 3.81% (35) documents, respectively, were securing their rank under the top 5 publishers. Apart from the top 5 publishers, some others, such as Elsevier Inc. with 3.48% (32), and SAGE Publications Ltd with 3.26% (30) also give their notable contributions in the domain. This distribution indicates that only some publishers are dominating in the field and are contributing the maximum count of documents, reflecting that authors are used to publishing their research in high-impact academic publishers.

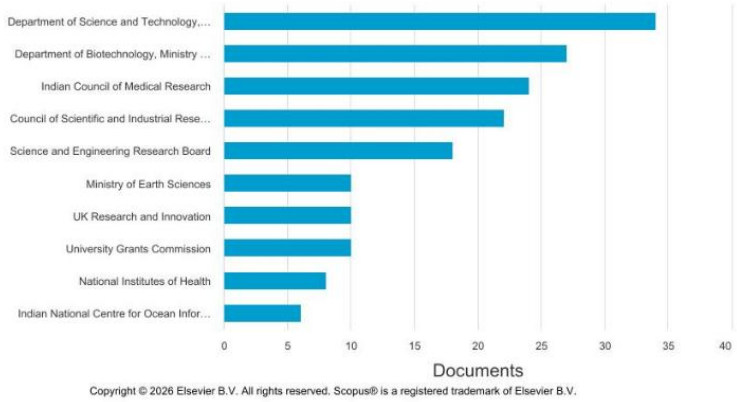
Table 6: Most Contributed Publishers

Rank	Publishers	Documents Published	% Share of Total Documents
1	Lippincott Williams and Wilkins	142	15.46%
2	Elsevier B.V.	71	7.73%
3	Springer Science and Business Media Deutschland GmbH	49	5.33
4	Association for Computing Machinery	44	4.79%
5	Hindawi Limited	35	3.81%
6	Elsevier Inc.	32	3.48%
7	SAGE Publications Ltd	30	3.26%
8	Wolters Kluwer Medknow Publications	27	2.94%
9	Research Journal of Pharmacy and Technology	20	2.17%
10	Deniz Publication	17	1.85%

Top Funding Agencies of the Decade

Fig. 8 presents the top funding agencies supporting research publications during the decade. The Department of Science and Technology emerges as the leading funding body, followed by the Department of Biotechnology and the Indian Council of Medical Research. Other prominent agencies include the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Science and Engineering Research Board. The figure also indicates that research happens in India, with the help of international funding agencies like UK Research and Innovation and the National Institutes of Health. Overall, the figure showed that government support is crucial for the promotion of research as well as research & development of the country.

Fig. 8: Top Funding Agency of the Decade



Conclusion

To provide a detailed and comprehensive overview, bibliometric analysis is the best way to compile various scholarly research publications to analyse the current scenario of disaster management plans and response rates in libraries around the world. The study suggests a significant increase in publications over the years to identify the need to focus on these non-profit organizations, as they hold resources that are rare and nationally important. The current bibliometric analysis recognized several factors, such as the type of publication, collaboration pattern among authors, significant journals, top funding agencies, highly contributing publishers, the most globally cited publication, etc. The present research identifies the role libraries could play in times of disaster or emergency. Libraries, being the information hub for future and present generations, could ensure to provide accurate & valid information to their users, enhancing resource sharing, supporting communities during a crisis. While focusing on modern advanced technology and digital services, a manageable disaster management plan would help these libraries to overcome the time of crisis efficiently. The study also focuses on various research gaps, to provide recommendations for future studies for research scholars, library professionals, various stakeholders, and policy-makers to keenly analyse these factors and enhance their role in preparedness for disasters in times to come.

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Sakshi Jain is qualified for the UGC NET JRF and is currently enrolled in the Department of Library & Information Science at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, as a Research Scholar. Her areas of interest are user studies, digital libraries, library automation and sustainable libraries. As the main author, she conceptualized the study, designed the

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